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COMMIT

5 - MAY 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Central Reference

SUBJECT: ORR Views on Inclusion of Finished Intelligence
in the Intellofax System

1. As a result of the discussion at the CRAG meeting of 11 April 1958, I instituted a quick survey of the views of a selected group of senior analysts and line officers who represented all major components of the Office. Each of the line officers was asked to check with enough members of his component to be assured that his responses reflected the general thinking of the analysts. The survey was led by the Chief of my Intelligence Information Staff.

2. The extent and intensity of the use of intellofax varies considerably among major ORR components. For many analysts it is a first step in the initiation of a new research project to obtain a listing of raw and finished intelligence on the subject of the project. It appears that most components for a variety of purposes call for intellofax runs periodically.

3. No one appears to utilize the intellofax system to obtain a listing of finished intelligence publications, per se. There was general agreement that the analysts, in utilizing the intellofax system, expected to obtain references to finished intelligence along with all other references pertaining to the requested subject.

4. The preponderant opinion is that the most efficient way of providing references to finished intelligence for researchers is through their inclusion in the intellofax system. No one considers the IPI as a desirable substitute for meeting this need. The IPI is essentially a means of keeping abreast of intelligence currently being published within the intelligence community. No one felt that publishing the IPI on a quarterly basis would significantly affect its use or value.

5. Those who admitted that the IPI could be used to recover finished intelligence pointed to the consequent increased cost in analysts' time. The majority felt that: (a) title scanning of

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entries in the IPI could be misleading; (b) the IPI subject breakdown is not nearly as useful as that of the intellofax; and (c) the IPI is not cumulative.

6. As a single suggestion that might be of interest to you, I quote the following:

"It has been suggested that on balance the resources being expended in intellofaxing IAC finished intelligence might be conserved if such reports as RR's and MIS's were coded: (a) in such a way as to indicate their finished nature; and (b) in a rougher cut, at a less detailed level than at present. Thus, a finished report on machine tool production in the USSR, if coded to indicate its finished nature, might be coded only once, under the general code number for Soviet machine tools and not coded in detail for machine tool production, distribution, foreign trade, etc.

"The resources saved by this approach might be employed more profitably in incorporating into the intellofax system additional industrial economic information, as for example, the serial FID translations such as the monthly Report on USSR Production of Industrial Equipment."

OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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